

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 13, 2006. Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 21, 36, 63, 64 and 65 have been amended. No new matter was added by these amendments. A Petition for a Two Month Extension of Time to respond to the Office Action is submitted herewith. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any fees due in connection with the filing of this Response to Office Action.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordell (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0140617) in view of Takano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,382,767). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse this rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claims 63 and 64 were not rejected in the Office Action. Neither Claims 63 or 64 were included in the statement of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordell in view of Takano et al. However, it appears that Claims 63 and 64 were intended to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordell in view of Takano et al. because the Office Action discusses Claims 63 and 64 in the body of this rejection. Applicants have responded accordingly.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a gaming device that comprises, among other elements, a switch connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet. The switch has a relatively rigid housing that defines a U-shaped cavity therein. The switch also has a relatively elastomeric cover that is substantially disposed in the U-shaped cavity of the housing. The switch is operable with a processor to control a function of a game.

Cordell teaches a gaming system with a retractable remote controller. However, the retractable remote controller of Cordell does not have a relatively rigid housing that defines a U-shaped cavity therein and a relatively elastomeric cover that is substantially disposed in the U-shaped cavity of the housing.

Takano et al. teaches a push button switch 10 having one operational button. The push button switch includes a housing 20 and an elastomeric cap 24 attached to the housing. The elastomeric cap 24 is attached to the housing via an upper collar flange 26. As illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of Takano, et al., the elastomeric cap 24

engages the upper collar flange 26. The elastomeric cap 24 extends from the upper collar flange 26 to protect the internal components of the switch 10. The elastomeric cap 24 is not substantially disposed in the housing 20. Moreover, the housing 20 does not define a U-shaped cavity that receives the elastomeric cap 24.

Thus, the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. does not teach, disclose, or suggest a switch having a relatively rigid housing that defines a U-shaped cavity therein and a relatively elastomeric cover substantially disposed in the cavity of the housing. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguished over the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. and in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2 to 11 depend from independent Claim 1 and are also allowable for the reasons given above with respect to independent Claim 1, and because of additional features recited in those claims.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to a gaming device that comprises, among other elements, an extendable switch connected to the cabinet and in communication with the processor through a connecting cord. The extendable switch has a first co-molded material adhered to multiple surfaces of a second co-molded material in a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the cord.

The Cordell retractable remote controller is connected to the gaming system through a connecting cord (flexible connector 90 and braided cable 92). However, as recognized by the Office Action, the retractable remote controller of Cordell does not include a first co-molded material adhered to multiple surfaces of a second co-molded material in a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the cord.

The Takano et al. push button switch includes a push button assembly 12 and a housing 20. An elastomeric cap 24 is attached to an upper portion of the housing via an upper collar flange 26. Lead wires LW are connected to the push button assembly 12 via a slide contact member 18 and a pair of contact strips 28. As illustrated in Fig. 2 of Takano et al., the lead wires LW are positioned in a lower portion of the housing by clamp ends 28a of the contact strips 28 and do not extend to the upper portion of the housing 20. As a result, the elastomeric cap 24 and the housing 20 of Takano et al. are

not adhered in a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the lead wires LW. Moreover, Takano et al. does not teach or suggest that the elastomeric cap 24 is adhered to the housing 20.

Thus, the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. does not teach, disclose or suggest an extendable switch having a first co-molded material adhered to multiple surfaces of a second co-molded material in a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the cord. Rather, as described above, the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. relates to a remote control or controller having a push button member 16 at an upper end of the housing 20 and lead wires LW at a lower end of the housing 20. The push button member 16 of the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. should not be characterized as an extendable switch having a first co-molded material adhered to multiple surfaces of a second co-molded material a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the cord. Moreover, the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. does not teach co-molded materials as in Claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 12 is patentably distinguished over the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. and in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 13 to 20 depend from independent Claim 12 and are also allowable for the reasons given above with respect to independent Claim 12, and because of additional features recited in those claims.

Independent Claims 63 and 64 are patentably distinguished over the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. for similar reasons as set forth above with respect to independent Claim 12. Specifically, each of independent Claims 63 and 64 include an extendable switch that includes, amongst other elements, a first material adhered to a second material a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the cord. As set forth above with respect to independent Claim 12, the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. does not teach a first material adhered to a second material in a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the cord as in independent Claims 63 and 64. The proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. does not teach or suggest the extendable switch of independent Claims 63 and 64

because (1) the elastomeric cap 24 of Takano et al. engages an upper portion of the housing 20 and lead wires LW engage a lower portion of the housing 20 and (2) the elastomeric cap 24 of Takano et al. is not adhered to the housing 20. Moreover, the extendable switch of independent Claim 63 includes first and second housing portions which are positioned relative to different portions of the cord. The proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. does not teach an extendable switch having first and second housing portions which are positioned relative to different portions of the cord because (1) the housing 20 of Takano et al. is formed as a one-piece molded structure and (2) the lead wires LW of Takano et al. only extend to a lower end of the housing and do not extend to multiple portions of the housing. As described above, the lead wires LW are fixed at a lower end of the housing 20 by clamp ends 28a of the contact strips 28.

Moreover, the Office Action appears to characterize the flexible connector 90 and the braided cable 92 of Cordell as the connecting cord, the first housing portion and the second housing portion of independent claim 63. Applicants respectfully submit that the flexible connector 90 and the braided cable 92 of Cordell should not be characterized in this manner. Independent Claim 63 includes an extendable switch including first and second housing portions, wherein the first housing portion includes a first rigid material adhered to a relatively elastomeric material in a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the cord and wherein the second housing portion includes a second rigid material positioned in a substantially surrounding relationship with a different portion of the cord. Neither the flexible connector 90 nor the braided cable 92 are adhered to a relatively elastomeric material in a substantially surrounding relationship with a portion of the cord.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 63 and 64 are patentably distinguished over the proposed combination of Cordell and Takano et al. and in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 21, 25 to 40 and 65 to 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordell in view of Hollowed (U.S. Patent No. 6,293,485).

As discussed above, Cordell teaches a retractable remote controller tethered to a gaming machine so that the retractable remote controller is movable from a retracted position (not shown) to an extended position (Figs. 1, 3 and 4). Cordell teaches a gaming machine housing that includes buttons to control activate features of the game machine and a remote controller that is received in a receiving slot of the housing when moved into the retracted position (Fig. 3 and paragraph [0042]). The retractable remote controller is retractable to a position partially inside a receiving sleeve. In one embodiment (Fig. 1), the sleeve is mounted to the side of the gaming machine. In another embodiment (Fig. 3), the sleeve is recessed in a front portion of the gaming machine. While in the receiving sleeve, the remote controller is inoperable by a player. In another embodiment, the remote controller is received in a securing receptacle on a front portion of the gaming machine housing (Fig. 4 and paragraphs [0048] and [0049]). While in the securing receptacle, the remote controller is operable by the player and constitutes buttons to activate various features of the gaming machine.

Hollowed teaches a cord storage assembly having a ratchet mechanism that cooperates with a cord to allow the cord to be moved from a retracted position to extended positions. Accordingly, the proposed combination of Cordell and Hollowed provides a gaming device having a retractable remote controller that is movable from a retractable position to extended positions via a cord storage assembly and ratchet mechanism.

Amended independent Claim 21 is directed to a gaming device that comprises, among other elements, a cabinet including at least one button operable by a person and a switch connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet via a cord, a spring and a ratchet. The spring causes the switch and cord to retract into a retracted position. The ratchet operates to lock the switch and cord in at least one extended position. The switch is positioned in substantially the same plane as the at least one button of the cabinet when the switch and cord are moved into the retracted position.

In Cordell, the remote controller is inoperable by a player when retracted into the game machine housing in one embodiment (Fig. 3). Moreover, the remote controller is not positioned in substantially the same plane as the buttons on the game machine when the remote controller is retracted into the game machine housing. In another embodiment of Cordell, the remote controller includes activation buttons for the gaming machine that are operable by a player when the remote controller is retracted into the game machine housing (Fig. 4). However, in this embodiment, the activation buttons on the remote controller replace the buttons on the game machine. In this embodiment, Cordell does not teach or suggest a cabinet including at least one operational button. Unlike the gaming device of Claim 21, the proposed combination of Cordell and Hollowed does not teach, disclose or suggest a cabinet including at least one button operable by a person and a switch positioned in substantially the same plane as the at least one button of the cabinet when the switch is moved into a retracted position. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 21 is patentably distinguished over the proposed combination of Cordell and Hollowed and in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 25 to 35 depend from independent Claim 21 and are also allowable for the reasons given above with respect to independent Claim 21, and because of additional features recited in those claims.

Amended independent Claim 66 is directed to a gaming device that comprises, amongst other elements, a cabinet including at least one operational button and a switch connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet. The switch and the at least one operational button are positioned in substantially the same plane when the switch and cord are moved into the retracted position. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 21, the proposed combination of Cordell and Hollowed does not teach, disclose or suggest a cabinet including at least one button and a switch connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet, wherein the switch and the at least one operational button are positioned in substantially the same plane when the switch and cord are moved into the retracted position. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 66 is patentably distinguished over Cordell and Hollowed and in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 67 depends from independent Claim 66 and is also allowable for the reasons given above with respect to independent Claim 66, and because of additional features recited in those claims.

Amended independent Claim 36 is directed to a gaming device that comprises, among other elements, a cabinet including at least one operational button and a switch connected extendably and retractably to a cabinet via a cord and a mechanism. The mechanism is operable to enable the cord to be pulled by a person to multiple predetermined extended positions defined by the mechanism and then released by the person, wherein the cord in each of the extended positions will thereafter recoil automatically to a fully retracted position. The switch is positioned directly adjacent to the at least one operational button and is operable by a person when the switch and the cord are moved into the fully retracted position.

In Cordell, the remote controller is retracted into the game machine housing in one embodiment (Fig. 3). When in the retracted position, the remote controller is not positioned directly adjacent to at least one button of the game machine. In another embodiment of Cordell, the remote controller includes activation buttons for the gaming machine that are operable by a player when the remote controller is retracted into the game machine housing (Fig. 4). However, in this embodiment, the activation buttons on the remote controller replace the buttons on the game machine. In this embodiment, Cordell does not teach or suggest a cabinet including at least one operational button. Moreover, in this embodiment, the remote controller of Cordell is not positioned directly adjacent to at least one button of the game machine in the retracted position. Unlike the gaming device in Claim 36, the proposed combination of Cordell and Hollowed does not teach, disclose or suggest a cabinet including at least one button and a switch connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet via a cord and a mechanism, wherein when the switch and the cord are moved into the fully retracted position, the switch is (i) positioned directly adjacent to the at least one button of the cabinet and (ii) operable by a person. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended

independent Claim 36 is patentably distinguished over Cordell and Hollowed and in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 37 to 40 depend from independent Claim 36 and are also allowable for the reasons given above with respect to independent Claim 36, and because of additional features recited in those claims.

Amended independent Claim 65 is directed to a gaming device that comprises, amongst other elements, a cabinet including at least one operational button and a switch connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet. The switch is positioned directly adjacent to the at least one operational button and operable by a person when the switch and cord are moved into the retracted position. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 36, the proposed combination of Cordell and Hollowed does not teach, disclose or suggest a cabinet including at least one button and a switch connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet, wherein the switch is positioned directly adjacent to the at least one operational button and operable by a person when the switch and cord are moved into the retracted position. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 65 is patentably distinguished over Cordell and Hollowed and in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 68 is directed to a gaming device that comprises, amongst other elements, a cabinet and a switch including a plurality of operational buttons. The switch is connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet. Only one of the operational buttons is operable by a person when the switch and cord are in a retracted position and the operational buttons are operable by the person when the switch and the cord are in multiple extended positions.

In Cordell, the remote controller is retracted into the game machine housing in one embodiment (Fig. 3). When in the retracted position, the remote controller and at least one button of the remote controller are not operable by a person. In another embodiment of Cordell, the remote controller includes activation buttons for the gaming machine that are operable by a player when the remote controller is retracted into the game machine housing (Fig. 4). However, in this embodiment, the same activation

buttons on the remote controller are operable by the person when the remote controller is retracted into the game machine housing and when the remote controller is extended from the game machine housing. In this embodiment, Cordell does not teach or suggest that only one of the operational buttons of the remote controller is operable by a person when the remote controller is in a retracted position and the operational buttons are operable by the person when the remote controller and the cord are extended from the game machine housing. The proposed combination of Cordell and Hollowed does not teach, disclose or suggest a cabinet and a switch connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet, wherein only one of the operational buttons of the switch is operable by a person when the switch and cord are in a retracted position and the operational buttons of the switch are operable by the person when the switch and the cord are in multiple extended positions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 68 is patentably distinguished over Cordell and Hollowed and in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 22 to 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordell in view of Hughes and further in view of Hollowed.

Hughes does not remedy the deficiencies of the proposed combination of Cordell and Hollowed discussed above with respect to independent Claim 21. Hughes discloses a grip for a controller of a video game machine or video computer system. Like independent Claim 21, dependent Claims 22 to 24 recite a cabinet that includes at least one button operable by a person and a switch that is connected extendably and retractably to the cabinet via a cord, a spring and a ratchet. The spring causes the switch and cord to retract into a retracted position. The ratchet operates to lock the switch and cord in at least one extended position. The switch is positioned in substantially the same plane as the at least one button of the cabinet when the switch and cord are moved into the retracted position. The proposed combination of Cordell, Hughes and Hollowed does not teach or suggest this combination of elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 22 to 24 are patentably distinguished over the proposed combination of Cordell, Hollowed and Hughes and in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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